

Introduced by Senator Price

April 4, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33—Relative to foreign investment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 33, as introduced, Price. Foreign investment.

This measure would state that the Legislature finds and declares that it is in California's economic interest to promote opportunities for EB-5 visa investment in the state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The economic downturn has led to higher
2 unemployment in California, and has limited access to credit and
3 investment for California businesses; and
4 WHEREAS, Greater foreign investment in California would
5 create jobs and improve the state's economy; and
6 WHEREAS, Many foreign investors see California as a desirable
7 place to invest and reside; and
8 WHEREAS, Congress created the EB-5 visa category in 1990
9 to attract foreign investment, making EB-5 status available to
10 immigrants seeking to enter the United States in order to invest in
11 a business or company that will benefit the economy; and
12 WHEREAS, The federal government's quota of 10,000 EB-5
13 visas per year has rarely been met, indicating that the EB-5 visa
14 may be an underutilized resource for foreign investment; and
15 WHEREAS, To be eligible for an EB-5 visa, an applicant must
16 invest one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in a project that will benefit

1 the United State's economy and create full-time employment for
2 at least 10 qualified individuals; and

3 WHEREAS, If the investment in a new commercial enterprise
4 is made in a rural area or one with high unemployment, that
5 investment can be five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000); and

6 WHEREAS, Use of the EB-5 visa has increased during the
7 economic downturn, and other states have implemented successful
8 programs to attract foreign investment; and

9 WHEREAS, A Vermont ski resort was able to expand from
10 seasonal winter recreation to being a year-round resort after raising
11 nearly two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) from South
12 African, Swedish, Canadian, Mexican, and British investors; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature finds and declares that it
16 is in California's economic interest to promote opportunities for
17 EB-5 visa investment in the state; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.